



Jesus, the Firstfruit of Jesse's Tree  
Christmas Day A.D. 2020  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Glendora MI  
Rev. Jonathan Liebich, Preacher  
Rev. Daniel Barz, Liturgist

### As We Gather

“In Him was life” (John 1:4). If you have ever had the opportunity to witness the birth of a child, it’s difficult to not be in awe of a new life entering the world. A newborn baby is full of life! Yet the

Christ Child born that first Christmas is full of life in an even greater way. This child, the Word made flesh, is born, lives, dies, and rises to give life to the world. “In Him was life.” In Jesus is life for Mary, life for Joseph, life for the shepherds, life for those in Bethlehem, life for the Jews, life for the Gentiles, life for all, life for you. This Christmas, when you see the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, rejoice that “in Him was life”!

## PREPARATION

### 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful *sts. 1–4*

1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: **Refrain**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes; Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, In the highest: **Refrain**

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n! Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

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### Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### Opening Sentences

P And the Word became flesh  
C **and dwelt among us,**  
P and we have seen His glory,  
C **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

### Confession and Absolution

P The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.  
As we gather together this Christmas, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. Because of the Savior who is the Word made flesh and dwelt among us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## WORD

### 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory *sts. 1, ref, 2*

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story,  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**

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**Introit** *Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

- C **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- L Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.  
The Lord has made known His salvation;  
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house  
of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
- C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Kyrie**

*LSB 152*

- A In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the  
Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church  
of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**  
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and  
praise let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C **Amen.**

**Salutation**

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

- P Let us pray.  
Father in heaven, You sent Your only-begotten Son as a descendent  
of Jesse as You fulfilled Your promise of a Messiah;  
C **grant that we joyfully receive Him as our Savior, the Word  
made flesh who dwelt among us;**  
P through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

**380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

*sts. 1, ref, 3*

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the\_angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
**Refrain**

**Refrain:** Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

- 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of  
Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. **Refrain**

**Old Testament Reading** *Isaiah 52:7–10*

- P The Old Testament Reading for the Nativity of Our Lord is from  
Isaiah, the fifty-second chapter.  
<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good  
news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who  
publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” <sup>8</sup>The voice of  
your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth  
together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has  
comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has  
bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of  
the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** *Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 6*

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
**and the government shall be upon his shoulder.**  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**  
Sing to the Lord a new song,  
**for he has done marvelous things!**

**Epistle** *Hebrews 1:1-6*

P The Epistle is from Hebrews, the first chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**Verse**

*John 1:14*

Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.

**Holy Gospel**

*John 1:1-14*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was

made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**383 A Great and Mighty Wonder**

- 1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:  
The virgin bears the infant, With virgin honor pure! **Refrain**  
**Refrain: Proclaim the Savior’s birth: “To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth!”**
- 2 The Word becomes incarnate, And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems, To shepherds from the sky. **Refrain**
- 3 While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.  
**Refrain**
- 4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Bethl’em, The Savior and the Lord. **Refrain**
- 5 All idols then shall perish, And Satan’s lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace.  
**Refrain**

**Sermon**

**Nicene Creed**

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one**

**substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### Prayer of the Church *John 1:1, 3-5, 12, 14*

- P We come before our Lord in prayer in the name of the Word, who became flesh and dwelt among us.  
 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” We come before You, eternal Lord, rejoicing that You are the same yesterday, today, and forever with mercies new each morning. In the name of the Word, who became flesh
- C **and dwelt among us.**
- P “All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.” We give You thanks for this world You have created. Empower us to be faithful stewards of Your creation. In the name of the Word, who became flesh
- C **and dwelt among us.**
- P “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” We are grateful that You sent Your Son to shine in our lives darkened by sin, bringing forgiveness. Grant that we shine as lights in this dark world, always bearing witness to Christ. In the name of the Word, who became flesh
- C **and dwelt among us.**
- P “But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” Have mercy on us as Your children. Bless with healing and restoration those who cry out to You for aid, [*especially . . . names*]. In the name of the Word, who became flesh
- C **and dwelt among us.**

- P “We have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” As we celebrate the birth of Your Son, we are thankful for Your glory that has been revealed in Him. In the name of the Word, who became flesh
- C **and dwelt among us. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT

### Preface

- P The Lord be with you. C **And also with you.**  
 P Lift up your hearts. C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
 P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### Proper Preface

- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

- C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
 Heav’n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
 Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
 Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the

marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

### Agnus Dei

*LSB 210*

C **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

## Distribution Hymns

### Piano Solos and Duets

### 364 Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

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### 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face, Evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is He whom seers in old time, Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets, Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.
- 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him,  
And extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore.
- 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be, Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore. Amen.

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## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

## Benediction

- P And the Word became flesh
- C **and dwelt among us,**
- P and we have seen His glory,
- C **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

## Babe in a Manger/Silent Night *sts. 1–3*

- 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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